



## ***Happy Holidays to the NNSA Team***

**From John Gordon  
Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration**

December 21, 2000

This is the first of what I plan to be a regular series of communications from me to all members of the new National Nuclear Security Administration team. In subsequent letters I will discuss with you some of my ideas on how NNSA should move ahead, better define some of our priorities, and let you know about important events, decisions, and successes.

We all know, of course, that hard decisions and difficult choices await us in the years ahead. But the establishment of the NNSA was a powerful message of support for our mission and the people who do the work everyday. I will need your support and help to continue moving forward. And I will need each of you to work as members of the team to strengthen our organization and our programs.

Much of our time in Washington over the next several weeks will be spent with the transition team as they examine our programs, priorities, and budgets for President-elect Bush and the yet-to-be-named next Secretary of Energy. I believe they will be supportive of efforts to strengthen the identity of NNSA. I am certain they will be extremely supportive of our missions. That said, I expect it will be quite busy as they come up to speed quickly. I may need to call upon some of you for quick turn around of papers and fast answers to questions as part of the transition process. Please understand the need for speed, accuracy, and objectivity in helping with those "turn-arounds."

I won't try to do much business in this first electronic letter, but I do want to wish each of you and your families a very happy Holiday Season and a joyful and successful New Year. This is always a very special time of year and we should take time to reflect on our successes and look ahead to an even brighter year. As you do that, I hope you will take some time with family and friends, and thank them for their support. When we work long hours and travel frequently, they are often the ones who pay the greatest price. I suspect that when we are criticized in public it is also they who feel the pain the most. Yet it is because of family and friends who stand beside us and support us that we are able to make such contributions to our great country. Spend time with them, thank them, and enjoy the holiday season.

I do want to tell you how happy my family and I are to be associated with the NNSA and all the fine people who make it what it is. For many members of this new organization it has been an extremely difficult year. And, I suspect, we will continue to receive criticism from time to time, some warranted and some not. But despite the list of problems related to security, infrastructure, program management, retention and recruitment and the whole litany you probably know better than I, NNSA programs continue to deliver. For example, I recently presented some very significant awards at the Savannah River Site

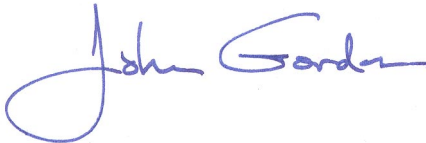
and at Los Alamos National Laboratory, for spectacular work that has gone on, almost unnoticed, by critics and supporters alike. It is ironic that the work for which these awards were earned was done while critics were telling us how bad our morale was and how poorly we were running some of our programs. One of my goals as Administrator is to celebrate and publicize our successes more widely – and there are plenty to celebrate.

The one thing we have going for us, above everything else, is the quality and dedication of the wonderful people who make up NNSA – in the field, in the labs, at the plants and test facilities, and in Washington. You have so much to be proud of and so much to contribute. I have been able to meet many of you in the few months NNSA has been in existence and I am always buoyed up after a visit or discussion. I look forward to meeting many more of you over the next year. I am so impressed with your skills, dedication and patriotism. Keep communicating with me and with each other and we will make a huge difference in the years ahead.

My family and I wish you a wonderful holiday season. We wish you warm times with family and friends, great joy, and good health. Please be safe. And, be proud of how deeply our country appreciates your contributions to national security.

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We will set up a more formal communications and feedback system in the very near future. In the meantime, please let me urge you to communicate with me informally at: [NNSA@NS.DOE.GOV](mailto:NNSA@NS.DOE.GOV).

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Gordon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Gordon" clearly legible.